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TELEGRAM

INDICATE
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FROM: ASSY BUENOS AIRES
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL

12065
TAGS: DS-1 6/1/09 (CASTRO, Raúl H.) OR-M
, SHUM
SUBJECT: STRATEGY DISCUSSION WITH ISRAEL AMBASSADOR ON TIMERMAN REL

ACTION: SECSTATE WASH DC

CONFIDENTIAL BUENOS AIRES 4429.

1. (C) All text

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2. Yesterday noon (May 31) I lunched with Amb Israel Ambassa Ram Nirgad at Embassy residence to discuss strategy on how be to obtain release of Jacobo Timerman.

3. Ambassador Nirgad told me General Viola had been quite fr in telling him Timerman's release was not imminent. Supposed Viola explained he favored Timerman's release but key army leaders opposed release for fear Timerman would write an exp and stir problems for Argentina. Nirgad indicated his readin as AF Commander Graffigna and Navy Commander Lambruschini were inclined not to fight Timerman's release.

4. I then suggested to my colleague of advantage of alerting Timerman to assume a more humble role when talking to visito I reminded Israel Ambassador of my impression of my last int view with Timerman on April 12. At that time Timerman came

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quite strong and proceeded to indicate to me the mental inferiority of most Argentines. He also told me of how he had offers from New York Times and various American universities to expose his experiences during his arrest. He indicated his resulting benefit would be a very favorable compensation. He also described to me how he was tortured and how some of his fellow cell-mates were likewise tortured. I indicated to Nirgad that unquestionably Timerman' room was "bugged" and thus Argentine Federal police were privy to Timerman's conversations. I explained GOA's reluctance to release Timerman could be attributed to perhaps statements overheard by Police reference his writing for New York Times etc.

5. Ambassador Nirgad concurred as he had the same experience. We have both explained this situation to Rabbi Marshall Meye an American and his spiritual counselor. Rabbi Meyer has agreed to caution Timerman on his statements during detentio Nirgad further explained Timerman was assuming a martyr role and how he looked upon himself as an international celebrity.

6. Nirgad stated current strategy is to have Timerman write letter to all three members of the Junta recommending that h be expelled from Argentina and he be allowed to go to Israel Heretofore, GOA had suggested Timerman apply for right of option. It was then explained to GOA Timerman was not under the PEN, therefore, ineligible for right of option. GOA came

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back and stated this was a mere technicality as Timerman could be 'placed under PEN at a moment's notice. On asking GOA what grounds would be used to place Timerman under PEN, the reply was why worry about grounds as it can be done. Nirgad states Timerman is opposed to this suggestion and is insisting he be expelled from his home-land.

7. Timerman is working on the letter to the Junta giving reasons why he should be kicked out of Argentina. Timerman has promised to send a copy of the draft to the Israel Ambassador, who in turn has promised to keep me informed. Nirgad stated he will take the draft to an attorney, specializing in criminal law, to be sure there are no pit-falls in the letter.

8. Nirgad said Timerman is quite legalistic and not an easy client. Ambassador Nirgad stated he has tried to impress Timerman first objective should be to achieve freedom. He has told Timerman that what he does after liberty is gained is his business. Nirgad stated he will try to convince Timerman no one wants to silence him about Argentina's human rights violations. First things come first, thus all efforts are being geared to have Timerman released.

CASTRO

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